

PANNA and HADI RANI



A. Ratan
Mullick

TWO TALES OF SELF-SACRIFICE

Though the people of Rajasthan are well known for their chivalry and valour, they too had their share of villains. Banvir was one such character. Invited by the nobles to be the guardian of the weak but arrogant king Vikramaditya, he exploited the situation to fulfil his own ambitions. And he might have been successful too, had it not been for *PANNA*.

In the seventeenth century, many Rajputs linked their fate with the Mughals. They accepted employment under them and had marriage alliances with them, but there were some among them who considered Mughals as usurpers. Prabhavati, also known as Chanchal, was one such person. Betrothed by her brother to the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb, she sought the help of Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar. The gallant Rana came to her rescue, though his chivalrous action put a strain on the amiable relations he had with the Mughal Emperor. The marriage of Prabhavati and Raj Singh was possible only because of the heroic decision of another couple, Ratna Singh and his bride, Hadi Rani.

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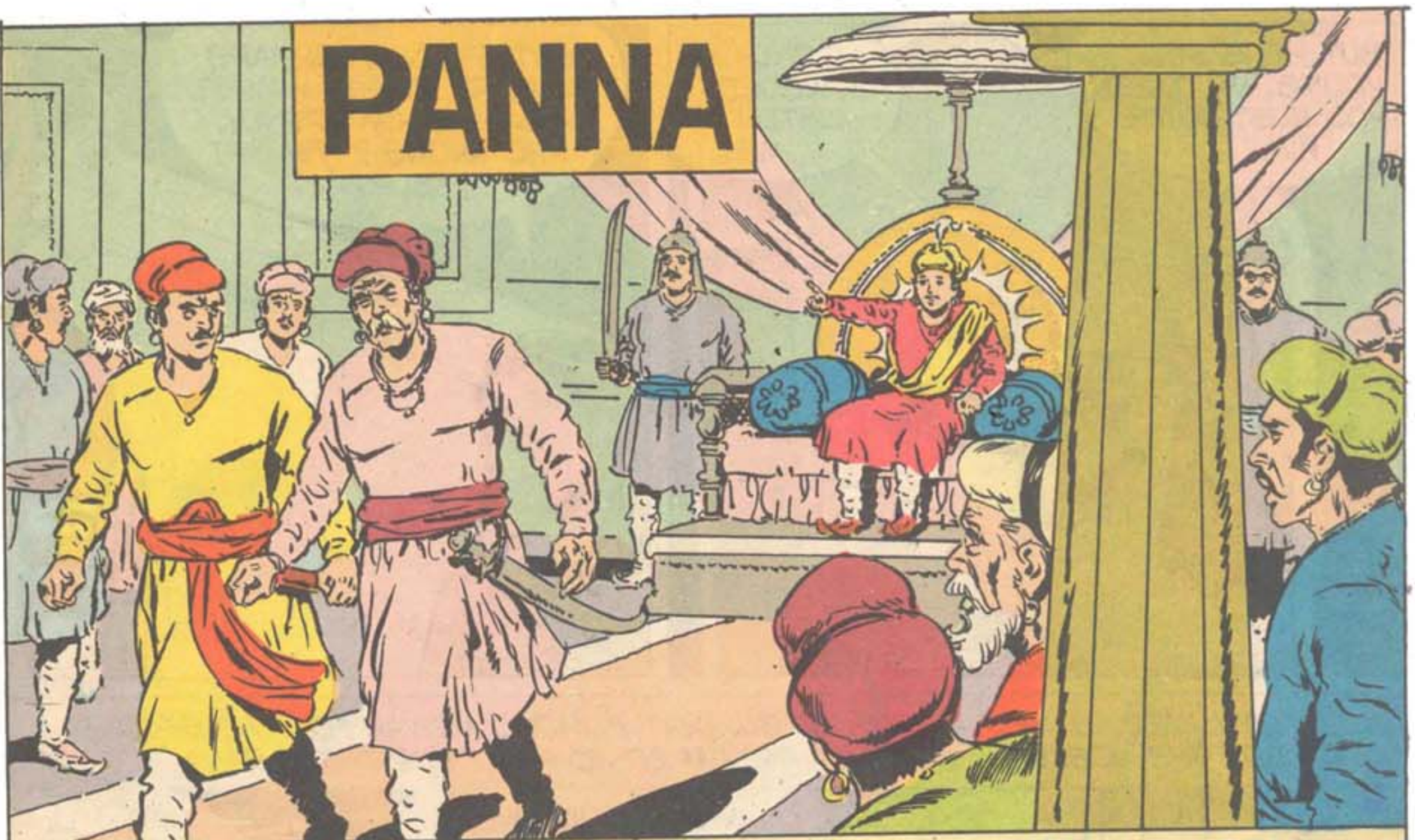
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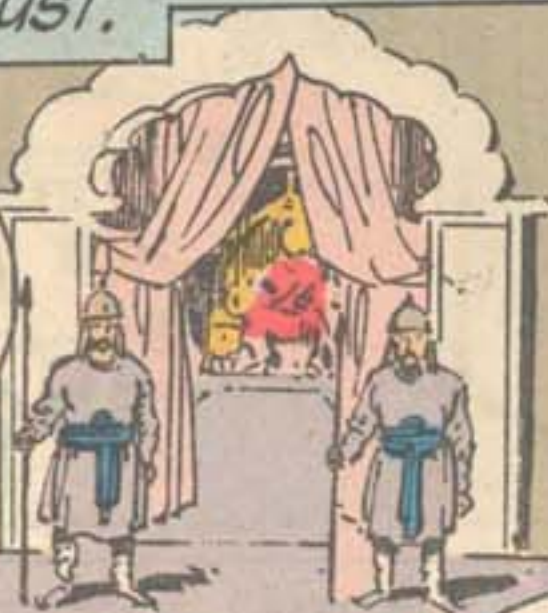
PANNA



VIKRAMADITYA, THE RANA OF MEWAR, BELONGED TO THE LONG AND RESPECTED LINE OF SISODIAS, WHO WERE FAMOUS FOR THEIR VALOUR AND STRENGTH. HOWEVER, THE YOUNG VIKRAMADITYA, WHO CAME TO POWER IN 1531, WAS ARROGANT AND INSOLENT.

MANY SELF-RESPECTING NOBLES LEFT HIS COURT IN DISGUST.

CHITTOR IS NO PLACE FOR US. WE SHALL NOT RETURN AS LONG AS VIKRAMADITYA SITS ON THE THRONE.



I FEEL SORRY FOR HIS MOTHER, THE QUEEN.



RANI KARMAVATI, VIKRAMADITYA'S MOTHER, WAS DISTRESSED BY HER SON'S BEHAVIOUR, AND SHE POURED HER HEART OUT TO HER TRUSTED MAID AND COMPANION, PANNA.

PANNA, EVEN THE DEFEAT WE HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF BAHADUR SHAH, HAS NOT TAUGHT VIKRAM TO VALUE THE SUPPORT OF OUR NOBLES.



BUT HE IS STILL YOUNG, MY QUEEN. YOU MUST GUIDE HIM.

IF ONLY HE WOULD LISTEN TO ME!

BUT, PANNA, PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT. I MUST SPEAK TO HIM OPENLY. WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT HELP....

A LITTLE LATER, BAHADUR SHAH OF GUJARAT INVADED MEWAR FOR THE SECOND TIME. BUT THE NOBLES WERE NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RANA.

WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT FOR THE RANA? HE HAS NEVER LOOKED AFTER OUR INTERESTS!

YES, I'LL NOT RAISE A FINGER IN HIS DEFENCE!

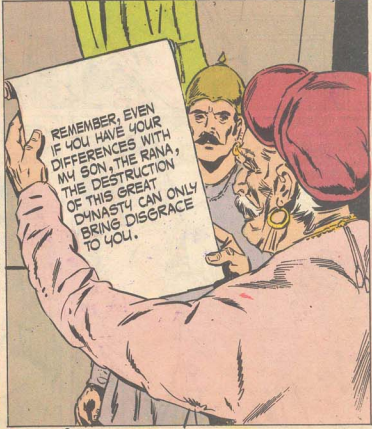
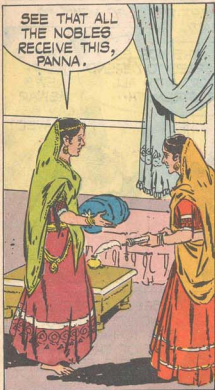
WHEN THE NEWS REACHED RANI KARMAVATI —

PANNA, SO MY WORST FEARS HAVE COME TRUE! THE NOBLES HAVE REFUSED TO FIGHT.

RANI, I AM SURE THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS, IF YOU APPEAL TO THEM.

THE RANI ACCEPTED HER ADVICE AND BEGAN TO WRITE TO THE NOBLES.

... CHITTOR ALWAYS HAS REMAINED IN THE POSSESSION OF THE SISODIAS, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION HAS ARRIVED....



THE GALLANT NOBLES RESPONDED
TO HER CALL.

THE RANI IS
RIGHT. WE MUST
FIGHT FOR MEWAR,
IF NOT FOR
VIKRAMADITYA.

WE CAN'T
LET DOWN
THE QUEEN WHO
HAS REPOSED
HER CONFIDENCE
IN US.



PANNA BROUGHT THE GLAD NEWS TO
RANI KARMAVATI.

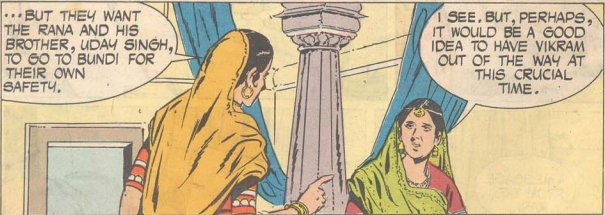
RANI, THE NOBLES
HAVE AGREED TO DEFEND
THE FORT WITH ALL
THEIR STRENGTH...

THAT IS
HAPPY
NEWS.
MEWAR
CAN BE
SAVED!



...BUT THEY WANT
THE RANA AND HIS
BROTHER, UDAY SINGH,
TO GO TO BUNDI FOR
THEIR OWN
SAFETY.

I SEE. BUT, PERHAPS,
IT WOULD BE A GOOD
IDEA TO HAVE VIKRAM
OUT OF THE WAY AT
THIS CRUCIAL
TIME.



PANNA,
YOU MUST
ACCOMPANY
MY SONS
TO BUNDI.

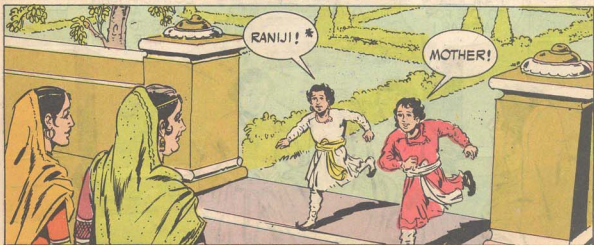
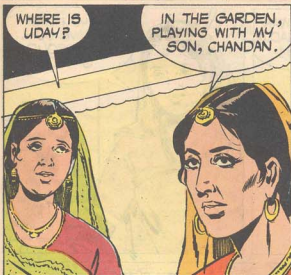
YOU MEAN
YOU'LL STAY
HERE? IN THE
THICK OF
DANGER?



YES, PANNA.
I'LL STAY
HERE.

I CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
HERE
ALONE!





WHAT WERE YOU
UP TO JUST NOW?
I SAW YOU
FIGHTING.

WE WERE ONLY
PRACTISING, RANIJI!
WE WANT TO BE
PREPARED.

PREPARED
FOR WHAT,
CHANDAN?

FOR WAR
WITH BAHADUR
SHAH!

OH, YOU ARE
A BRAVE BOY.
I AM PROUD
OF YOU!

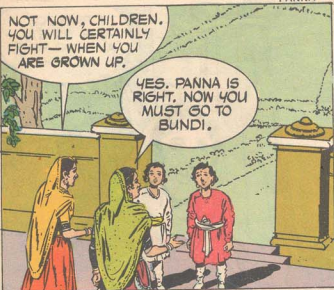
I AM READY
TO DIE FOR
MEWAR!

BOTH CHANDAN
AND I ARE
GOING TO FIGHT
BAHADUR SHAH!

NOT NOW, CHILDREN.
YOU WILL CERTAINLY
FIGHT— WHEN YOU
ARE GROWN UP.

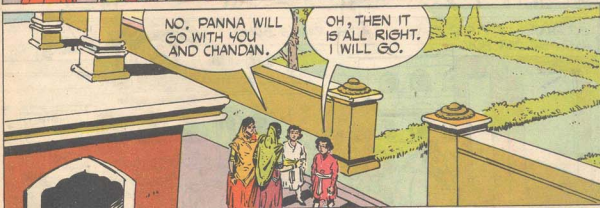
YES. PANNA IS
RIGHT. NOW YOU
MUST GO TO
BUNDI.

TO BUNDI? ARE
YOU COMING
TOO?



NO. PANNA WILL
GO WITH YOU
AND CHANDAN.

OH, THEN IT
IS ALL RIGHT.
I WILL GO.



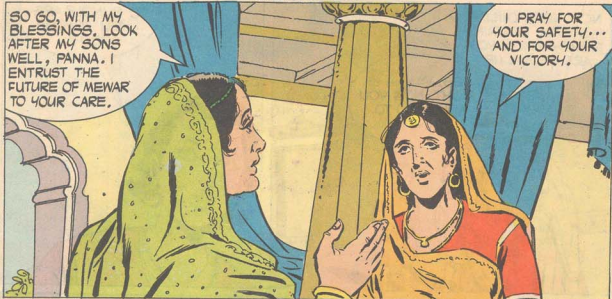
SOME DAYS LATER—

RANI, HOW I WISH
I COULD STAY HERE
WITH YOU!

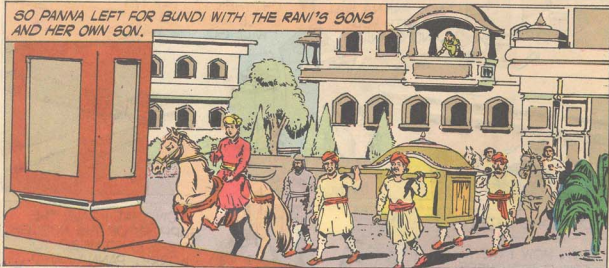
NOW THAT I HAVE THE
SUPPORT OF THE NOBLES,
THERE IS NO NEED TO
WORRY, PANNA. AND
I HAVE SENT A RAKHI *
TO THE MUGHAL
EMPEROR, HUMAYUN.
HE WILL UNDERSTAND
MY MESSAGE AND
WILL NOT FAIL ME.



* BRACELET GIVEN BY A SISTER TO A BROTHER OR AN ADOPTED BROTHER



SO PANNA LEFT FOR BUNDI WITH THE RANI'S SONS AND HER OWN SON.



AT BUNDI, PANNA THOUGHT CONSTANTLY ABOUT THE QUEEN AND THE FATE OF MEWAR.

OH, RANJII! I HOPE THE MUGHAL EMPEROR HAS SENT HIS ARMY TO HELP YOU.



A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER ARRIVED AT BUNDI.

I'VE BAD NEWS FROM CHITTOR. THE QUEEN IS NO MORE. SHE HAS COMMITTED JAUHAR.*

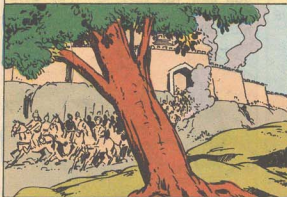
OH—RANJII!!



THE BRAVE RAJPUTS
FOUGHT VALIANTLY.
BUT THEY WERE
OUTNUMBERED.



SOON, HOWEVER, BAHADUR SHAH HAD
TO FLEE FROM CHITTOR AS THE MUGHAL
FORCES WERE ADVANCING TO FIGHT HIM.



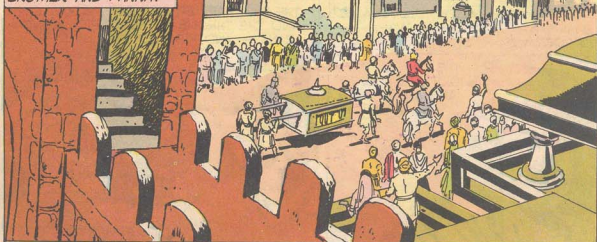
THE LOYAL RAJPUTS AT CHITTOR THEN SENT
A MESSAGE TO BUNDI.



IT IS NOW SAFE
FOR THE RANA TO
RETURN TO
CHITTOR.

IF ONLY THE
RANI WERE
ALIVE!

RANA VIKRAMADITYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL WITH HIS
BROTHER AND PANNA.



HE WAS REINSTATED ON THE THRONE. BUT ALL WAS NOT WELL.

I HEAR OUR RANA HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH ROGUES AGAIN, PANNA DHAY.*

I FEAR IT MAY BE SO, RAJMANI. HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEARNT NOTHING DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS.



HE HAS ALLOWED HIS RELATIVE, BANVIR, TO ENTER THE COURT AGAIN AND SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN HIS COMPANY.

WHAT! BANVIR! THAT SCOUNDREL WHOM THE RANA'S LATE FATHER HAD BANISHED FROM MEWAR WITH ORDERS NEVER TO RETURN?



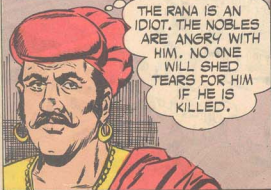
YES, YES, THE SAME CRUEL, WILY BANVIR!

LORD SAVE US THEN! I FEAR EVIL DAYS ARE AHEAD!



PANNA'S FEARS WERE WELL FOUNDED. BANVIR WAS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

THE RANA IS AN IDIOT. THE NOBLES ARE ANGRY WITH HIM. NO ONE WILL SHED TEARS FOR HIM IF HE IS KILLED.



THE ONLY BARRIER BETWEEN ME AND THE THRONE IS THE STUPID RANA — AND HIS BROTHER UDAY.



ONE EVENING, UDAY SINGH AND CHANDAN CAME HOME AFTER A LONG DAY'S HUNT.

OH, PANNA,
WE HUNTED THE
WHOLE DAY. I AM
TIRED AND
HUNGRY!

SO AM I,
MOTHER!

YES, MY
SONS. I HAVE
SOME FOOD
READY FOR
BOTH OF YOU.

SHE GAVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT...

... AND PUT THEM TO BED.

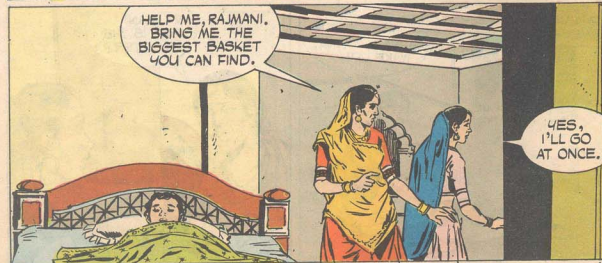
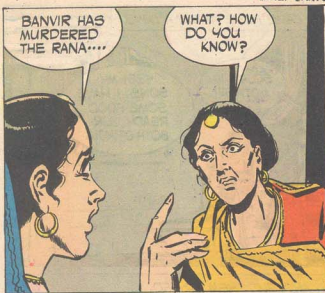
I HOPE TOMORROW,
TOO, WE WILL HAVE
A GOOD...

WAKE...
ME...EARLY
...TOMORROW...

PANNA HAD BARELY CLOSED HER EYES
WHEN—

PANNA... PANNA.
WAKE UP!

RAJMANI!
WHAT IS THE
MATTER?





WAKE UP,
UDAY, MY
CHILD.



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

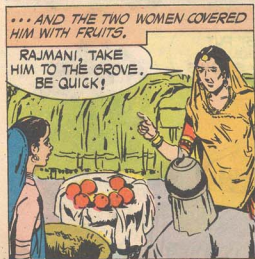
SH...SH!
NOT SO
LOUD!



I HAVE NO TIME TO
EXPLAIN. COME ON,
GET INTO THIS
BASKET,
SON.



UDAY SINGH LOWERED HIMSELF
INTO THE BASKET...



... AND THE TWO WOMEN COVERED
HIM WITH FRUITS.

RAJMANI, TAKE
HIM TO THE GROVE.
BE QUICK!



THE SERVANTS LEFT WITH THE BASKET. PANNA
BREATHED A PRAYER..

KEEP UDAY SAFE,
ALMIGHTY GOD! THE
WICKED BANVIR SHOULD
NOT LAY HIS HANDS
ON HIM!

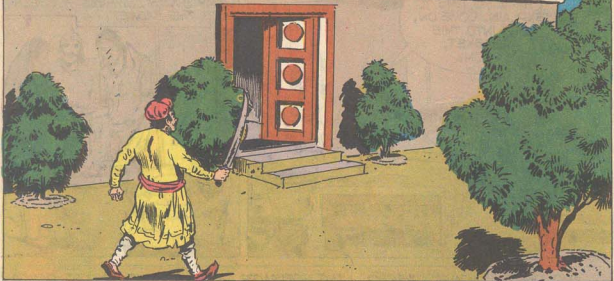
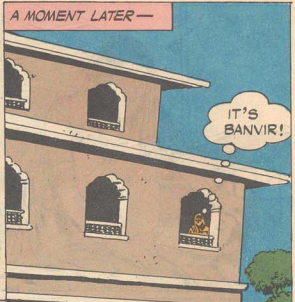
THEN SUDDENLY A CHILLING THOUGHT
STRUCK HER.

BANVIR... OH...
HE WILL SOON
COME HERE
ASKING FOR
UDAY SINGH!



A MOMENT LATER —

IT'S
BANVIR!



WHAT IF HE
ASKS FOR
UDAY SINGH?

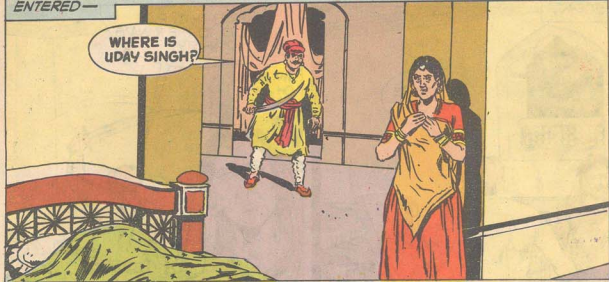


I MUST PUT
MY SON ON
UDAY SINGH'S
BED.



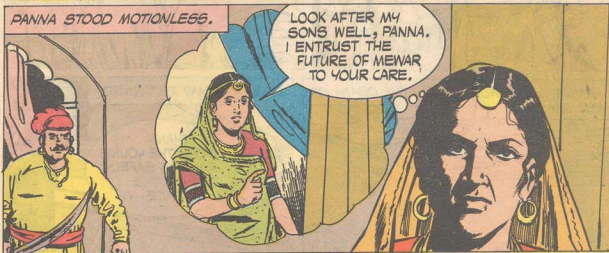
SHE ACTED SWIFTLY. JUST AS SHE HAD PUT A SHEET OVER HER SON, BANVIR ENTERED —

WHERE IS
UDAY SINGH?



PANNA STOOD MOTIONLESS.

LOOK AFTER MY
SONS WELL, PANNA.
I ENTRUST THE
FUTURE OF MEWAR
TO YOUR CARE.



RANI, I AM
PREPARED TO
DIE FOR MEWAR.

TELL
ME, WHERE
HE IS!



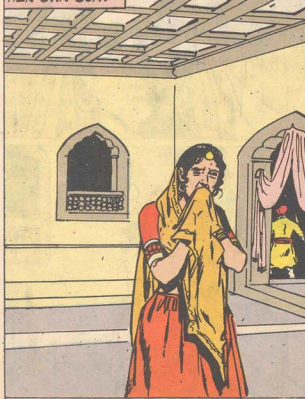
PANNA COULD NOT TRUST HERSELF TO SPEAK.



BANVIR STRUCK THE SLEEPING FIGURE.



PANNA COULD NOT MOURN THE DEATH OF HER OWN SON.



SOON RAJMANI RETURNED.





THEN SHE LOOKED AT THE BED.



PANNA HAD REGAINED HER COMPOSURE BY THEN.

HUSH! NO NOISE!
WE ... CANNOT... GIVE
OURSELVES AWAY NOW.
BANVIR MUST BELIEVE
THAT UDAY IS
DEAD.

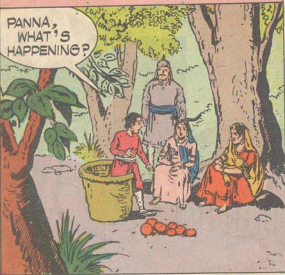


THEN THEY SET OUT ON THEIR SECRET MISSION AND JOINED THE PARTY WHICH HAD LEFT EARLIER WITH UDAY.

LET'S LEAVE QUICKLY.
WE MUST GET AWAY AS
FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM
CHITTOR BEFORE THE
SUN RISES.



A LITTLE LATER, THEY DECIDED TO STOP AND HAVE SOME REST.



PANNA TOLD HIM ALL THE EVENTS OF THE PAST NIGHT.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER—



PANNA, WHERE
ARE WE GOING?
WHO WILL GIVE
US SHELTER?

I'M SURE SOME
CHIEFTAIN WILL GLADLY
OFFER US SHELTER.

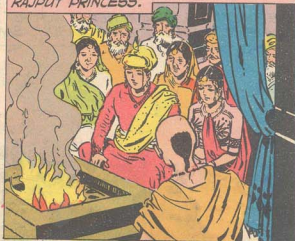
PANNA TOOK UDAY SINGH TO RAO ASA
SAH, THE RULER OF KUMBHALMER.

RAOJI, THIS IS UDAY
SINGH, HEIR TO THE
THRONE OF MEWAR.
WILL YOU SHELTER
HIM FOR SOME
TIME?

CERTAINLY, HE
CAN STAY HERE. HE
CAN PASS OFF AS
ONE OF MY
NEPHEWS.



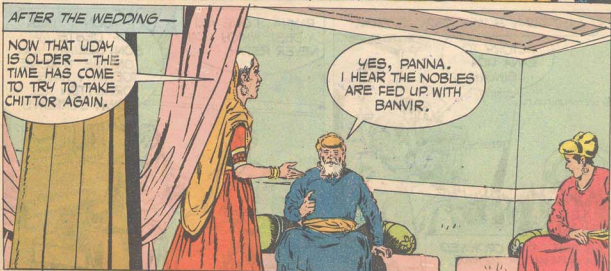
FOUR YEARS WENT BY. DURING THAT
TIME, UDAY SINGH WAS MARRIED TO A
RAJPUT PRINCESS.



AFTER THE WEDDING—

NOW THAT UDAY
IS OLDER — THE
TIME HAS COME
TO TRY TO TAKE
CHITTOR AGAIN.

YES, PANNA.
I HEAR THE NOBLES
ARE FED UP WITH
BANVIR.



THEN PANNA CONTACTED THE CHIEFTAINS OF MEWAR AND MADE PUBLIC THE FACTS OF UDAY SINGH'S ESCAPE.

I APPEAL
TO YOU TO RESTORE
MEWAR TO THE
RIGHTFUL HEIR.

WE CONSIDER
IT OUR DUTY TO DO
SO, PANNA.

THE CHIEFTAINS ROSE IN REVOLT AGAINST BANVIR AND JOINED UDAY SINGH.
IN A BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR MAHOLI, BANVIR'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.



AT LAST UDAY SINGH TOOK CHITTOR.

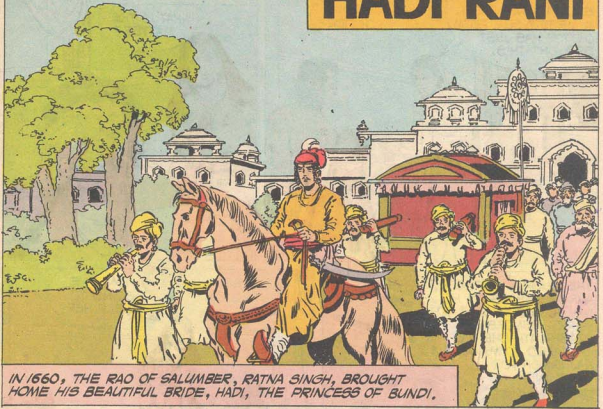
VICTORY TO
RANA UDAY
SINGH!

PANNA, I OWE YOU
A DEBT WHICH I CAN
NEVER REPAY.

DON'T TALK
OF DEBTS, MY
SON. SEEING YOU
ON THE THRONE
TODAY, I HAVE
FORGOTTEN ALL MY
OWN SORROWS.

HE WAS LATER CROWNED
MAHARANA OF MEWAR.

HADI RANI



IN 1660, THE RAO OF SALUMBER, RATNA SINGH, BROUGHT HOME HIS BEAUTIFUL BRIDE, HADI, THE PRINCESS OF BUNDI.

LATER —

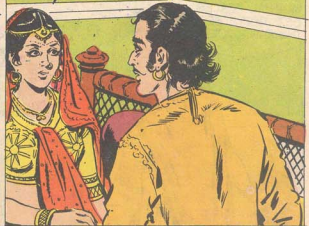


OH, HADI ! ALL THE PRAISES I HAVE HEARD OF YOU DON'T DO JUSTICE TO YOUR BEAUTY.

YOU FLATTER ME, MY LORD.

JUST THEN THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR ?



A MAID ENTERED.

SALUTATIONS, RAOJI.
A MESSENGER FROM
CHITTOR HAS JUST
BROUGHT THIS.

FROM
CHITTOR?

RATNA SINGH READ THE LETTER
AND TURNED PALE.

WHAT IS THE
MATTER?

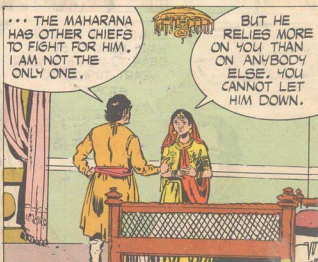
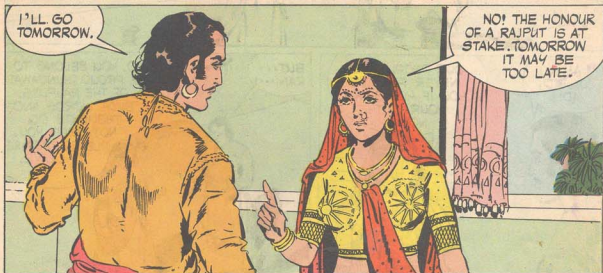
THE MUGHAL EMPEROR,
AURANGZEB, IS ON HIS
WAY TO ROOP NAGAR TO
MARRY PRINCESS
PRABHAVATI. SHE HAS
APPEALED TO MAHARANA
RAJ SINGH FOR
HELP AND....

ISN'T HE
GOING TO
HELP HER?

YES,
HE HAS ALREADY
LEFT FOR ROOP NAGAR
TO MARRY HER BEFORE
AURANGZEB REACHES.

BUT SUPPOSE THE
MUGHAL FORCES
GET THERE BEFORE
THE RANA DOES?

THE MAHARANA
WANTS ME
TO INTERCEPT
THEM.



STILL RAO RATNA SINGH HESITATED.

WE HAVE JUST BEEN MARRIED. YET YOU ASK ME TO LEAVE YOU STRAIGHT AWAY. AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE DANGER AHEAD OF ME?

ONLY COWARDS ARE AFRAID OF DANGER, MY LORD. THE BRAVE WOO THEM.



I AM NO COWARD, HADI!

OUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU SHIRK YOUR DUTY NOW.



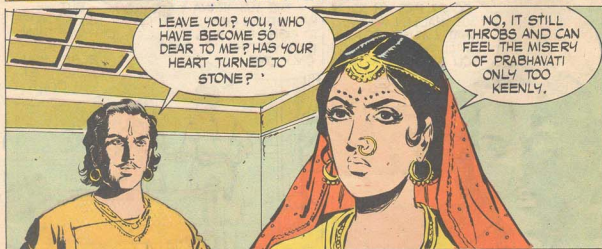
BUT... RANI...

NO. YOU BELONG TO THE PROUD CHUNDAWAT CLAN OF THE RAJPUTS. SUCH WORDS AND THOUGHTS DO NOT BEFIT YOU. PLEASE PREPARE TO LEAVE.



LEAVE YOU? YOU, WHO HAVE BECOME SO DEAR TO ME? HAS YOUR HEART TURNED TO STONE?

NO, IT STILL THROBS AND CAN FEEL THE MISERY OF PRABHAVATI ONLY TOO KEENLY.



THEN HADI FLEW INTO A RAGE.

O MIGHTY CHUNDAWAT, ARISE!
DUTY CALLS YOU! YOUR
PROUD ANCESTRY COMMANDS
YOU! A RAJPUT PRINCESS
ENTREATS YOU! O LORD OF
MY LIFE, DON'T HESITATE!



HADI'S WORDS HAD THEIR EFFECT.

OH! HADI! YOU
HAVE AWOKEN ME
FROM MY
SLUMBER.

MAY VICTORY
BE YOURS, MY
LORD!



SOON THE DRUMBEATS RESOUNDED
THROUGHOUT THE CASTLE AND PREPARATIONS
FOR BATTLE BEGAN.

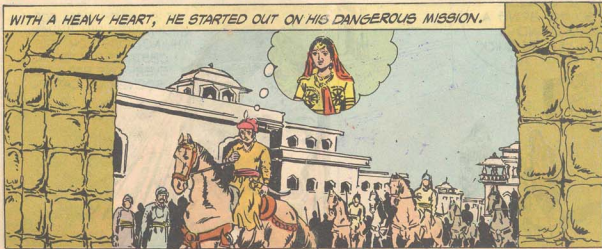


RAO RATNA SINGH WAS READY TO DEPART.

MAY LORD
EKLING
PROTECT YOU.
MAY YOU COME
BACK
VICTORIOUS....



WITH A HEAVY HEART, HE STARTED OUT ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION.



SUDDENLY —

RETURN TO THE RANI AND ASK HER TO SEND ME A MEMENTO.

AS YOU COMMAND, SIR!



THE RANI SAW THAT THEY HAD STOPPED.

WHAT MAKES HIM DELAY NOW?



WHEN THE MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO HER —

A MEMENTO? IS HE THINKING OF A MEMENTO AT SUCH A TIME?



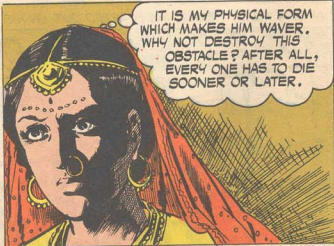
ALL RIGHT, I KNOW WHAT TO SEND HIM — A MEMENTO WHICH WILL MAKE HIM FIGHT FOR THE MAHARANA.



GO AND BRING A SWORD AND A SALVER. BE QUICK ABOUT IT!



IT IS MY PHYSICAL FORM WHICH MAKES HIM WAVER. WHY NOT DESTROY THIS OBSTACLE? AFTER ALL, EVERY ONE HAS TO DIE SOONER OR LATER.

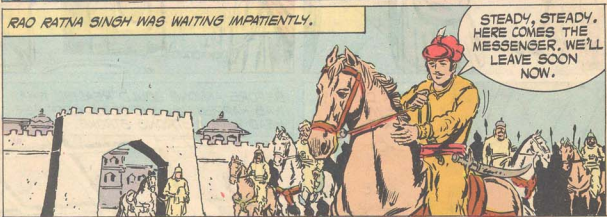




WITH TEARS IN HER EYES, HADI'S MAID GAVE THE MEMENTO TO THE MESSENGER.



RAO RATNA SINGH WAS WAITING IMPATIENTLY.




THE MESSENGER SILENTLY PRESENTED RATNA SINGH WITH THE MEMENTO.



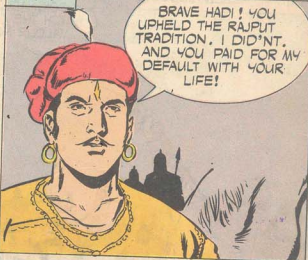
RATNA SINGH HURRIEDLY REMOVED THE CLOTH.






MY LORD, THE RANI
WANTED THIS MESSAGE
TO BE CONVEYED TO YOU:
"TELL MY LORD HE SHOULD
NOT TURN AWAY FROM
HIS DUTY NOW...".

A SUDDEN CHANGE CAME OVER RAO RATNA
SINGH.



BRAVE HADI ! YOU
UPHELD THE RAJPUT
TRADITION. I DID'NT.
AND YOU PAID FOR MY
DEFAULT WITH YOUR
LIFE!



FORWARD, MY
SOLDIERS ! WE'LL
SHOW THEM OUR
METTLE TODAY !

SOON, HE CONFRONTED THE ADVANCE TROOPS OF AURANGZEB,
LED BY DILAWAR KHAN, IN THE VALLEY OF GOGUNDE.

AND IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAO RATNA SINGH FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY.

LOOK, HADI, LOOK!
WATCH THE CHUNDAWAT
VALOUR NOW!



THOUGH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, RAO RATNA SINGH CONTINUED THE FIGHT.

YA ALLAH! HE IS
POSSESSED!

RUN!



DILAWAR KHAN WAS FORCED TO ORDER A RETREAT.

HAR HAR
MAHADEV!

VICTORY TO
RAO RATNA
SINGH!



GO TO THE MAHARANA
AT ROOP NAGAR AND
TELL HIM I HAVE
ACHIEVED THE TASK
HE ENTRUSTED
TO ME.



YOU HAVE SAVED THE
RAJPUT HONOUR, MY BRAVE
MEN! NOW RETREAT TO
SALUMBER FOR A
WELL-EARNED REST.



AS FOR ME,
THIS SACRED EARTH
CALLS ME. I'LL STAY
HERE NOW... IN
ETERNAL SLEEP.




HADI — I AM
COMING
TO YOU.

JAI
MEWAR!



LIKE HADI RANI, RAO RATNA SINGH, TOO, SEVERED HIS HEAD. BUT THEIR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN. PRABHAVATI WAS RESCUED BY MAHARANA RAJ SINGH, AND HE LATER MARRIED HER.



*It's always a treat
Whatever flavour you eat*

All your favourite fruits come together in Kissan Mixed Fruit Jam to make one great flavour. Think of different ways to eat it in. Spread it on a crunchy cracker. Roll it up in a chappati. Drink it stirred in milk. Kissan's fruity goodness makes almost everything more delicious.

Nine great flavours to choose from

Mixed Fruit, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, apple, apricot, Goldenmist orange marmalade and guava jelly.

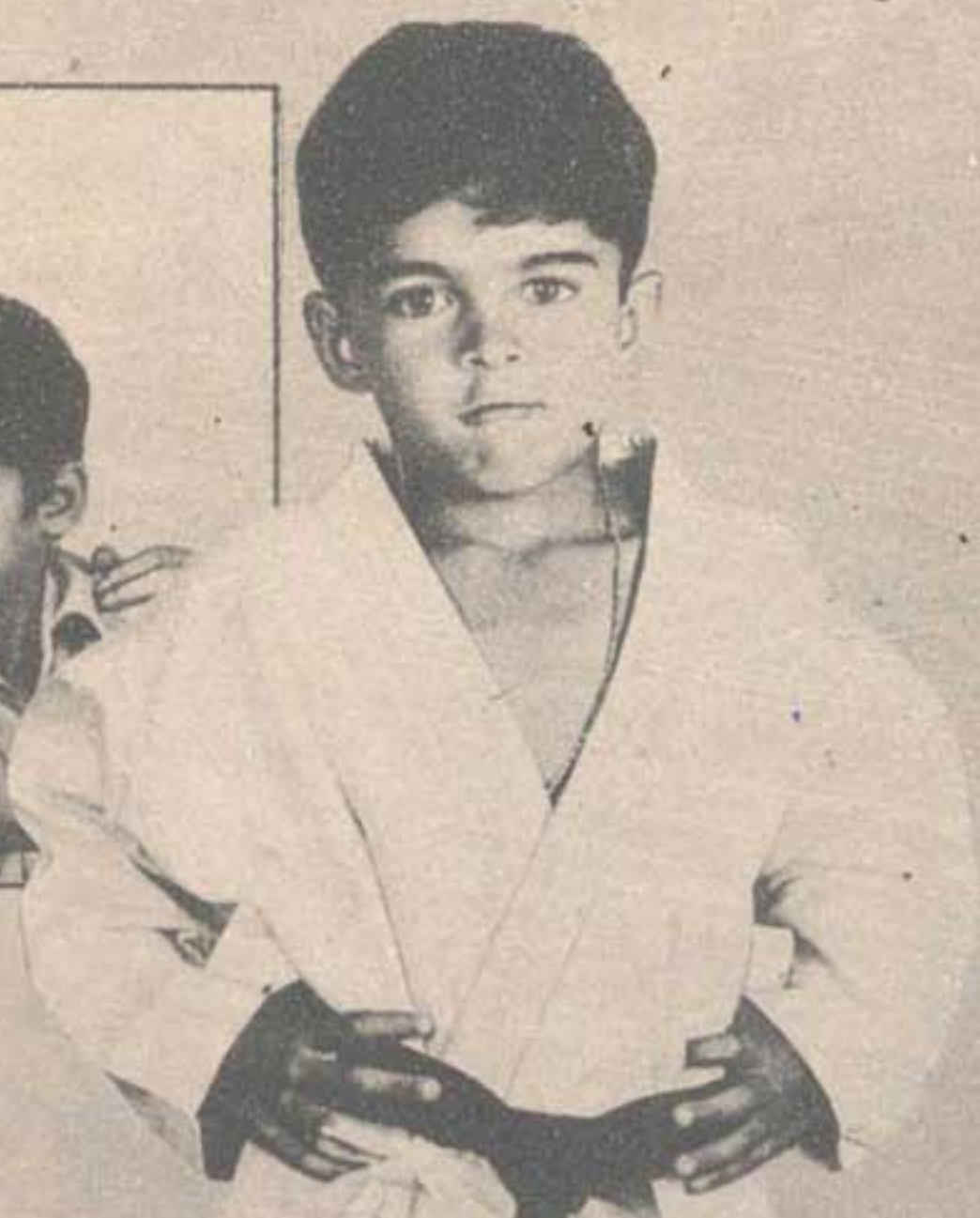


Kissan

**A LITTLE
SWEETNESS GOES
A LONG WAY**



"Raju hated milk ... till I added Nutramul."



**"Now he's
a Nutramul *dada*."**

It's such a problem
getting children to
drink their milk.

That's why
thousands of
mothers bless
delicious Nutramul.
Nutramul delivers
taste and strength.
Nutramul is rich in
cocoa, milk and



malt—tastes
superb. And
contains
proteins, vitamins
and minerals.
So nourishing for
growing bodies.
Flavourful
Nutramul—every
cup builds you up.

**AMUL'S
Nutramul**



Marketed by
**Gujarat Co-operative
Milk Marketing
Federation Limited,**
Anand, Gujarat.

Every cup builds you up!

Dipy the Kid "CARNIVAL CATCH"

While Dipy the Kid steals children's hearts...

someone else busily steals wallets!

SHORE AM LUCKY!
THAT'S MY TENTH 'UN TODAY!

HOLY COW! SAW THAT?



THANKS, SILVER!
COME AND GET IT, JOE!



Yessiree, it's no wonder Joe didn't lose his grip when it came to Dipy's! 'Cause Dipy's make some of the most scrumptious squashes and syrups around. Lemon, Orange and Mango Squashes. Lemon Barley Water. Lime Cordial. Pineapple Crush. Refreshing Rose Syrup. Frolic, the Fruit Flavoured Syrup. And all the rest of the Dipy's party. Worth getting your hands on!

**Dipy's is real fruity
—so fresh 'n' juicy.**

OKAY FELLAS...
LET'S GO
FIX HIS WAGON!



Joe knows the game is up.



Dipy the Kid in the dizziest chase of his life.



DIPY'S SQUASH!
AH CAN'T RESIST!



HOW COME YORE
FINGERS AIN'T SO SLIPPERY
TODAY, JOE?



YIPPEE IT'S DIPY'S!



BETWEEN POCKETS AND DIPY'S,
IT'S DIPY'S I PICK!



Sehgal Bros.
South Ext. Mkt.
New Delhi